
Name of Organization: Erie County Department of Environment and Planning

Type of Organization: County

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Project Title: County/Tribe Environmental Partnership Project 2

Project Category: Pollution Prevention and Reduction - BNS

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 0

Total Funding Requested (\$): 52,000 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

Abstract:

This Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) project is a continuation of a project originally funded by GLNPO in 1998 to implement a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program on three Native American Reservations (Tuscarora, Tonawanda, and Cattaraugus) in proximity to Erie County. The program will continue to focus on the collection of persistent toxins to prevent uncontrolled releases into local tributaries of the Great Lakes. The targeted reservations are located along significant segments of the Tonawanda and Cattaraugus Creeks, Great Lake tributaries, and upstream from the Niagara River Area of Concern. Education and outreach efforts have been conducted to increase the awareness of reservation officials and residents for the identification and proper disposal of hazardous household products. Successful collection events have been conducted on two reservations in 1999. Reservation officials expressed satisfaction with collection results, appreciation for the assistance and a tremendous interest in the continuation of the program. Additional program funding and duration will further establish County/Tribal cooperation for environmental programs and allow for enhanced public HHW education efforts to increase program participation. It will also increase the potential for the program to become a permanent part of services provided by Tribal government to reservation residents.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ohio

Lakes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ontario
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	All Lakes

Geographic Initiatives:

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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Primary Affected Area of Concern: Niagara River, NY

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

Efforts to provide a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program for Native American reservation residents stem from Erie County HHW workshops where reservation officials attended and communicated a need for this service. Tribe officials however lack the expertise and resources to address this problem within their jurisdiction. To address this problem and meet this need, Erie County applied for and received a grant in 1998 to collect HHW on three nearby reservations. Experience gathered from the original project to date indicate a need to enhance, prolong and expand the project to increase participation.

Protection of groundwater resources is critical for reservation residents dependent upon this source for potable water. In addition, each reservation is located adjacent to Great Lake tributaries. This collection of household hazardous waste will likely result in the collection of priority pollutants, including PCB, mercury and lead contaminated oil paint, pesticides and mercury. Without other means for residents to properly dispose of this toxic material, this program is the only means to prevent the uncontrolled discharge of HHW toxics into Great Lake tributary waters.

Proposed Work Outcome:

Previous experience with the County/Tribe Environmental Partnership allows us to target at least two annual HHW collections per reservation over the two year period of the program. County HHW collections indicate that we can reasonably expect that these collections will result in the proper disposal of priority pollutants. These may include chlordane, DDT, PCB, lead and mercury contaminated oil based paints. Public education efforts will continue to increase reservation resident awareness and participation in the program.

Collections will be held on reservations on Saturdays, from 9am to 2pm, to mimic the highly successful Erie County HHW collection program. Tribal community events will be accessed for public education. Direct mailings may be utilized to further increase participation.

Project Milestones:**Dates:**

Project Start

10/2000

Community Education Campaign

03/2001

2001 Tribal HHW Collections (3)

09/2001

2002 Tribal HHW Collections (3)

09/2002

Project End

10/2002

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☒ Project Addresses Environmental Justice**If So, Description of How:**

This project addresses environmental justice by serving the environmental needs of low-income and minority communities on the three reservations (Tuscarora, Tonawanda and Cattaraugus) in proximity to Erie County. This would meet needs expressed by reservation officials for the continuation of the program initiated in 1999. Reservation residents depend upon groundwater for a potable water source which further underscores the importance of the program.

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach**If So, Description of How:**

Education and outreach will continue to be a vital part of this program. Limited initial participation for HHW collections may be attributed to a number of factors including unfamiliarity with the disposal program operation and objectives. While initial contacts with reservation residents focused upon general HHW identification, further effort and emphasis will be placed upon the need and importance to properly dispose of these materials and to take advantage of the program collection events. The negative impacts of improper disposal with respect to groundwater and the Great Lakes ecosystem will be discussed with residents and students.

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	28,000	16,000
Fringe:	7,000	4,000
Travel:	1,500	0
Equipment:	1,500	0
Supplies:	0	0
Contracts:	12,000	0
Construction:	0	0
Other:	2,000	0
Total Direct Costs:	52,000	20,000
Indirect Costs:	0	6,000
Total:	52,000	26,000
Projected Income:	0	0

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

The applicant's share of funding for this project will be in the form of in-kind contributions of Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) staff time, benefits and indirect costs.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

This project will involve collaboration between the three reservations (Tonawanda, Tuscarora and Cattaraugus) and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP). A continuation of this collaborative effort between these entities on environmental issues such as indoor air quality is a DEP program objective. This collaborative effort would be at the specific request of the tribes currently involved in the Erie County/Tribe Partnership Program and likely to extend beyond HHW collection issues. This continuation would establish an ongoing longterm relationship with local tribes on environmental matters.

Additional assistance will be required from waste disposal firms currently involved in supplying HHW disposal services to Erie County. Support will include both manhours and promotional material to be distributed at reservation community events. Contractors to the program will include Safety Kleen, BFI, Irish Propane, EIDon Battery and Integrated Tire. Further HHW public information publications will be accessed from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.